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the launching pad

With **C. MERVYN MAXWELL**

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Q. Pretty generally I agree with your opposition to Sunday-closing laws; they constitute a kind of quasi-religious persecution. Just the same, I'll have to admit that I see the other side too. Families do need a regular day off when they can all be together and go to church together. Don't you think so too?

A. You will be fascinated with the results of a study conducted within the past year by Dr. A. J. O. Farina, of the University of Toronto. With the help of 13 graduate students he interviewed 421 workers in Toronto—and found that irregular days off and weekends on the job did not significantly damage the community participation, family life, or religious observance of individual workers as compared with the experiences of other men with regular weekends off. The results were, in Farina's words, "not dramatic or spectacular."

True, people without regular weekends attend Sunday worship services less than those with regular weekends, but they participate in other church-centered activities more.

The study was commissioned by the National Committee on the Church and Industrial Society (which includes official representatives from major denominations) and the Lord's Day Alliance (a group highly active in promoting Sunday laws). Dr. Farina is himself a member of the Lord's Day Alliance—a fact which should not be overlooked, since his findings run contrary to the ordinary claims of his society's publications.

Q. In defending your Saturday Sabbath as a "memorial of Creation," where do you get this "image of God" idea? Man was not made in the image of God. Man made God in his own image.

A. How can I agree with you.

It is true that many men have made many little gods in their own images, but the God Jesus presented as the heavenly Father and eternal Creator is not like any human being I know.

Man is selfish, hateful, and mortal; God is generous, gracious, and immortal. Man cheats, lies, and steals; God is the embodiment of honesty and faithfulness. Man can land on the moon; God made the moon and the entire universe.

The God presented in the Bible is a lot dif-

ferent from any man I've ever met. He was not made in our image.

But in the beginning, the Bible says, God made man in *His* image (Genesis 1:26)—a sinless, gracious, generous man whose character resembled God's own. To this ideal, Jesus taught, He desires to restore us until we shall love another as He has loved us (John 13:34; 1 John 4:19).

Q. It is fantastic that an enlightened magazine such as LIBERTY could devote a whole issue (May-June, 1969) to opposing rebellion and revolution. Don't you know that America's history is rooted in revolution? All our freedoms stem from the rebellion of the thirteen colonies against their "smother country." Revolution is a God-given right of free men!

A. I pondered your question a few weeks ago on the battlefield of Gettysburg, where forty-four thousand youthful Americans fell, dead or wounded, because eleven Southern States had rebelled against the "establishment" of their day.

Altogether six hundred and eighteen thousand men were killed during the four-year Civil War. In terms of bleeding, battered and butchered Americans, our Civil War cost us almost twenty times as much as Vietnam.

Are all made-in-America rebellions justifiable, my brother?

Q. You appear to believe the Bible. So do I. When you oppose Federal aid to church-related schools, you give as your reason your fear of what it may lead to in the future. Don't you know that Jesus said, "Do not be anxious about tomorrow" (Matthew 6:34, R.S.V.)? Parochial schools must get Federal aid in order to survive; so let's accept the money and not worry about the future.

A. If you think church-related schools won't survive without Federal aid, is it possible you are more anxious about the future than I am?

It is my faith that God can impress committed Christians to support their own schools without the help of tax money raised from unwilling "outsiders"—just as Paul believed his Christians would "glorify God . . . by the generosity" of their "contribution" (2 Corinthians 9:13, R.S.V.).